

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to carry a
politically
sensitive program is
very disturbing for
a number of reasons,
each very important
in itself and
together they are a
cause for serious
concern about the
abuse of the public
airways.

Sinclair is giving
the impression that
it is using its
access to the public
airways in order to
further the
political beliefs of
the head of that
company, someone who
has made no secret
of his political
loyalties and his
support for the
Republican
candidate. The
amount of money
raised from
employees of the
company is an
additional sign of
the possibility of
the company taking
unfair and
undemocratic action.

Sinclair's
statements that this
is a news story is
clearly a
transparent cover
story that allows
them to say
something, even if
not logical, to
critics.

Their earlier
refusal to carry
Nightline because of
the reading of the
names of the
soldiers killed in

Iraq because it was politically charged, now rings very hollow in the light of their current decision about the Kerry film.

Their ability to force local stations to carry this program makes a mockery of local control of the airwaves.

This unilateral decision by Sinclair demonstrates a major flaw in allowing media power to become increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few people who are able to control content.

This is not a partisan issue. I would feel the same way if a network decided to force its stations to carry Michael Moore's film.

I hope fervently that you will act in such a way as to see that the chances of something like this happening now and in the future are reduced significantly. I do not think that it is an oversatement to say that the viability of the Republic is at stake.

Respectfully yours,

Stephen A. Gilford